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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : ATTN: BOX MISSING PARTS  
Takanori ISHIDA et al. : Docket No. 2001-1440A  
Serial No. 09/960,324 : Group Art Unit 2621  
Filed September 24, 2001 : Confirmation No. 5338

IMAGE DECODING APPARATUS, IMAGE  
DECODING METHOD, AND PROGRAM  
STORAGE MEDIUM

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Kindly amend the above-referenced U.S. patent application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before line 25 on page 21, please insert the following:

Figure 14(a) is a diagram illustrating coded image data of plural image sequences, and  
figure 14(b) is a diagram illustrating a video stream in which the coded image data are  
multiplexed.